

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14907 131728Z

63

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: VIEWS OF BUDGET AND REGIONS MINISTER MORLINO ON POLITICAL  
SCENE

SUMMARY: AT A RECENT LUNCHEON WITH THE CHARGE, BUDGET AND  
REGIONS MINISTER MORLINO (MORO FACTION) EMPHASIZED THE DC'S  
PRESENT TASK TO PROVIDE SOLID GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP RATHER  
THAN PARTISAN, ELECTION-TYPE RHETORIC. WHILE HE AGREED THE  
DC SORELY NEEDED TO REFURBISH ITS IMAGE, HE APPEARED DUBIOUS  
THAT THE NEWLY-ELECTED YOUNG DEPUTIES WERE SUFFICIENTLY COHESIVE  
TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN MOUNTING A DC PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT  
ABROAD. CRITICAL GENERALLY OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SMALLER  
LAY PARTIES, MORLINO RESERVED HIS DEEPEST SCORN FOR THE SOCIALISTS.  
BECAUSE OF THE PSI'S COMMITMENT TO A GOVERNMENTAL ROLE FOR THE  
PCI AND THEIR CONTINUING SHARP CRITICISM OF THE DC, MORLINO  
HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR AN EVENTUAL DC-PSI RAPPROCHEMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT A LUNCHEON WITH THE CHARGE SEPTEMBER 9, MINISTER FOR  
BUDGET AND REGIONS TOMASSO MORLINO EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON THE  
CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE. THEY ARE OF INTEREST IN THAT  
THEY REPRESENT THE THINKING OF AN OLD-TIME DC PLITICIAN WHO IS  
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PAGE 02 ROME 14907 131728Z

ONE OF TWO MOROTEI (THE OTHER BEING TINA ANSELM) IN THE ANDREOTTI

CABINET.

2. MORLINO STRESSED THAT THE DC'S PROPER ROLE, NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER IS TO "GOVERN". WHILE THE OTHER PARTIES CAN INDULGE IN PARTISAN, ELECTIONEERING POLEMICS, THE DC HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNING. IT MUST PUT FORTH PROGRAMS WHICH MEET THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY COULD BE UNPOPULAR. OTHER PARTIES CAN PLAY TO THE MASSES IN SEEKING TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM UNPOPULAR MEASURES. THE DC CAN EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITY BEST BY "GOVERNING" CORRECTLY.

3. IN THE CONTEXT OF PARTY RENEWAL, THE CHARGE COMMENTED THAT THE DC NEEDED TO ACCORD PRIORITY ATTENTION TO REFURBISHING ITS IMAGE IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MEDIA CIRCLES ABROAD. HE SUGGESTED THAT MANY OF THE NEW, YOUNG DEPUTIES HAD NOT YET FOUND A USEFUL ROLE IN THE PARTY. THEIR ENERGIES AND UNIQUE TALENTS (KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES AND CONTEMPORARY OUTLOOK) COULD BE UTILIZED TO GREAT ADVANTAGE BY SENDING THEM OUT TO PROMOTE A FRESH IMAGE OF THE "NEW DC" IN WESTERN CAPITALS. MORLINO READILY AGREED THAT THE DC WAS SADDLED WITH A TARNISHED IMAGE, COMMENTING THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER MORO HAD MADE THE VERY SAME POINT IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT MORNING. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT THE NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTIES WERE SUFFICIENTLY COHESIVE TO REPRESENT THE DC ABROAD. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER THE US AND FRG ELECTIONS, THE DC SHOULD SENT OUT GROUPS OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERTAKE THIS ACTIVITY.

COMMENT: MORLINO'S COMMENTS ALSO REVEALED DECIDED UNENTHUSIASM FOR THE RENEWAL INITIATIVE (A MODERNIZED, EUROPEANIZED DC) LAUNCHED BY UNBERTO AGNELLI AT THE SEPTEMBER 3-4 MEETING AT THE HILTON OF SOME 50 PARLIAMENTARIANS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MORLINO REGARDED THE YOUNG DC DEPUTIES GENERALLY WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVE AS BEING ENTHUSIASTIC AND WELL-INTENTIONED BUT ESSENTIALLY UNGUIDED. END COMMENT.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE CONTINUING DISCUSSION ON ZACCAGNINI'S FUTURE AS DC PARTY SECRETARY, MORLINO DISCOUNTED ANY IMMEDIATE MOVE TO EFFECT A CHANGE, CITING ZACCAGNINI'S IMMENSE PERSONAL POPULARITY AND THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE PARTY UNITY. HE DISCRIBED  
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PAGE 03 ROME 14907 131728Z

ZACCAGNINI AS A "PARADOX:" THE MORE HE ACTS LESS LIKE A POLITICIAN (AND A FORCEFUL PARTY LEADER), THE MORE HIS POPULARITY RISES. HE ALSO CREDITED ZACCAGNINI WITH POSSESSING MACHIAVELLIAN ASTUTENESS WITHOUT WORKING ON IT OR CONTRIVING IT. MORLINO CONFIRMED ACCOUNTS OF ZACCAGNINI'S PERSONAL, FAMILY HEALTH CONCERNS WHICH HAVE THE EFFECT OF SAPPING HIS POLITICAL ENERGIES. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, THE SOLUTION IS TO BUILD UP AROUND ZACCAGNINI A COMPETENT, PROFESSIONAL STAFF WHO CAN PROVIDE THE

PARTY WITH THE COMBATIVENESS AND RESPONSIVENESS TO POLITICAL CHALLENGES THE ZAC LACKS.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE PSI AND LAY PARTIES, MORLINO REVEALED DEEP ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE SOCIALISTS, HOLDING OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR AN EVENTUAL RAPPROCHEMENT AND NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DC. "HOW CAN WE NOT FAIL TO RESPOND, WHEN THEY DIRECTLY ATTACK US AND ONLY US?" MORLINO ASSERTED THAT THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET BLAMES THE PSI FOR ITALY'S POLITICAL CRISIS. HE CONTRASTED THE "REASONABLENESS" OF THE PCI TO THE SCORN AND ABUSE WHICH THE PSI CONTINUES TO HEAP ON THE DC.

6. MORLINO REFUTED THE VIEW THAT THE DC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POOR SHOWING OF THE LAY PARTIES IN THE ELECTIONS BY STATING THAT THE SMALL PATIES CONTINUED TO DO WELL WHEREVER THEY PRESENTED GOOD CANDIDATES. HE CITED AN EXAMPLE OF PLI AND PRI SUCCESS IN HIS ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF LECCO WHERE THEY HAD GOOD PEOPLE. MORLINO DISMISSED LAMALFA AND SARAGAT AS BEING WASHED UP POLITICALLY. LAMALFA'S IDEAS, HE SAID, WERE ALRIGHT FOR 1947, BUT NOW THE WORLD HAS PASSED HIM BY. MORLINO SAW NOTHING NEW IN LAMALFA'S PRONOUNCEMENT THAT THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE IS NOW "VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE:" EVEN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, LAMALFA HAD SOMEHOW FANTISIZED A ROLE FOR HIMSELF AS THE MEDIATOR IN A DC/PCI COALITION.

7. IN CONCLUDING, MORLINO REITERATED HIS INTEREST IN MAINTAINING COLOSE CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED TO VISIT THE US NEXT SPRING IN HIS CURRENT CAPACITY AS BUDGET AND REGIONS MINISTER. BEAUDRY

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